



February 2007

Dear Colleagues:

A new year is upon us, and we are gearing-up for many new initiatives in the field of early care and education. Some of these initiatives include establishing early learning guidelines for children, core competencies for early childhood professionals, standardized early childhood education curricula for Virginia Community Colleges, and more. Along with the new initiatives, we continue our commitment to provide quality training with an excellent selection of spring classes.

We invite you to take advantage of the many, low-cost training opportunities designed to fulfill your training requirements and enhance your skills for teaching young children. Some professional development opportunities are highlighted below.

1. Watch for more information to follow about an Early Childhood Summit in May. The Summit will launch the implementation of the early learning guidelines for children and core competencies for providers. More intensive training will follow in the coming months for practitioners in all early childhood environments.
2. The NEW, full-day Medication Administration Training (MAT) course will be offered by VDSS. Classes will be facilitated by VDSS-approved trainers. By the end of March 2007, providers will be able to access a list of approved trainers from the VDSS Web site. Register early for this required course as classes are limited to 8 participants each. See page 25 for details.
3. A new and improved tax preparation course is being offered for family day home providers called, Managing Your Home Child Care Business in a Profitable Way. We hope family day home professionals will find it very helpful. See page 24 for details.
4. The Early Childhood Endorsement Program (ECEP) is in full swing, giving providers a more complete foundation of knowledge for working with specific age groups. Endorsements are being offered on working with preschool children, as well as infants and toddlers. For more information, please see pages 14-15.
5. Having trouble finding time to attend classes or travel to classes? The Read-A-Book Program may be your solution. It's a self-paced reading program to earn training hours. For more information, please see page 28.
6. Don't forget to check out the Smart Beginnings Web site at: [www.SmartBeginnings.org](http://www.SmartBeginnings.org). There is an entire section for Professionals, including other training and development resources. Individuals may register to receive email updates on early childhood initiatives under "Get Involved."

Other Notable Items:

Please see the VDSS Child Care and Development Web site, which includes this catalog and the TIPS Calendar at <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/redirect/?83>.

If you plan to take college-level courses, think about using the Virginia Child Care Provider Scholarship Program. For more information, please call toll-free 1.866.636.1608, or go to <http://www.dss.virginia.gov/family/cc/scholarship.html>.

You may be one of the only positive influences in a young child's life. Please give yourself time to grow and learn about new research and techniques so you can fulfill your career goals and positively impact the children. Here's to a new year of making the most of life's opportunities.

Sincerely,

Kathy D. Gillikin, Quality Child Care Program Manager  
Division of Child Care and Development, Virginia Department of Social Services

*VDSS Mission:*

*People helping people triumph over poverty, abuse and neglect  
to shape strong futures for themselves, their families and communities.*